

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: 1977 OECD PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET

REFS: (A) STATE 171201, (B) OECD 027139,  
(C) OECD 21600, (D) OECD 19555

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET ON OCTOBER 18 TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND TIMETABLE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION OF 1977 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET (C(76)177). IT WAS AGREED THAT BY OCTOBER 26 GOVERNMENTS WOULD PROVIDE SECRETARIAT WITH LIST OF CHAPTERS AND PARAGRAPHS ON WHICH THEY PLANNED TO RAISE QUESTIONS. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET NOVEMBER 3-5 TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES PRIOR TO DETAILED EXAMINATION BY BUDGET COMMITTEE. OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO SECURE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL APPROVAL OF BUDGET BY END OF NOVEMBER.

2. MISSION HAS EXAMINED BUDGET DOCUMENT CLOSELY AND HELD A GENERAL STAFF MEETING TO DISCUSS AND COORDINATE OUR FINDINGS. IN GENERAL, WE FIND THE PRIORITIES INDICATED IN THE BUDGET DOCUMENT AND THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO THEM TO BE SATISFACTORY. THE BUDGET BOTH REFLECTS OUR OVERALL PRIORITIES IN OECD  
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AND PROVIDES SECGEN WITH SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO

ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO NEW TASKS, INCLUDING OUR INITIATIVES ON NORTH/SOUTH AND EAST/WEST. WHILE WE WILL WISH TO QUESTION THE SECGEN'S PROPOSED INCREASES IN REAL RESOURCES (WHICH, AS INDICATED IN THE BUDGET DOCUMENT, AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY TWO PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1976 AUTHORIZATION) IN SEVERAL AREAS, WE DO NOT SEE HOW THE OVERALL LEVEL OF THE BUDGET COULD BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY WITHOUT HAMPERING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRIORITY PROGRAMS.

3. ONE POSSIBLE AREA OF EXCESS WHICH WE HAVE NOTED IN THE OTHERWISE TIGHT BUDGET IS THE SIZEABLE REAL INCREASE IN SECGEN'S REQUESTS FOR CONSULTANCY FUNDS, PARTICULARLY UNDER GENERAL DIRECTION AND COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CHAPTERS. WE EXPECT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS TO QUESTION THESE REQUESTS. HOWEVER, SECGEN REGARDS THESE CONSULTANCY PROPOSALS ESSENTIALLY AS CONTINGENCY FUNDS TO ALLOW HIM TO BRING IN THE KIND OF EXPERTISE REQUIRED FOR NEW TASKS. SINCE OUR NORTH/SOUTH AND EAST/WEST INITIATIVES ARE PRECISELY THE KINDS OF TASKS FOR WHICH CONSULTANCIES MAY BE REQUIRED, WE ARE IN A POOR POSITION TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PRESSING FOR CUTBACKS.

4. WE WILL OF COURSE PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXAMINATION OF NEW POSITIONS REQUESTED BY SECGEN. AT PRESENT THE ONLY POSITION REQUEST WHICH WE BELIEVE MAY BE EXCESSIVE IS THAT FOR FIVE NEW POSITIONS IN FINANCIAL AND FISCAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE (SEE REF B). WE MAY WISH TO QUESTION GRADE LEVELS OF OTHER POSITIONS, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL A-5 IN ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS.

5. SECGEN'S PROPOSALS IN ADMINISTRATION AREA ARE PRESENTLY UNDERGOING A DETAILED TECHNICAL EXAMINATION IN THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. WHILE OUR JUDGMENT IN THIS AREA SHOULD AWAIT THE FINDINGS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, THE SECGEN'S RECOMMENDED INCREASES FOR TRANSLATION SERVICES AND PRINTING EQUIPMENT APPEAR AT INITIAL EXAMINATION TO BE JUSTIFIED.

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6. IN SHORT, BASED ON GENERAL GUIDANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE ON OVERALL BUDGET LEVEL (REF A) AND OUR OWN INTERNAL EXAMINATION OF BUDGET, WE PLAN UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE TO VOICE IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR GENERAL THRUST OF BUDGET DOCUMENT WHILE PORING A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN SPECIFIC AREAS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON ANY

SPECIFIC ISSUES OR QUESTIONS IT WOULD WANT US TO RAISE.

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